AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please replace the claims with the claims provided in the listing below wherein status, amendments, additions and cancellations are indicated.

1. (Original) An optical fiber tape core comprising: an optical fiber core assembly with plural optical fiber cores two-dimensionally arranged in parallel with each other; and a coating layer formed of silicone rubber and arranged on at least one side of said optical fiber core assembly, said silicone rubber forming said coating layer.

2. (Withdrawn) The optical fiber tape core according to claim 1, wherein said silicone rubber forming said coating layer has a hardness of from 20 to 90 and a tensile strength of from 15 to 80 kgf/cm^2.

3. (Withdrawn) The optical fiber tape core according to claim 1, wherein coating layers are arranged on both sides of said two-dimensional assembly of said plural optical fiber cores.

4-15. (Cancelled)

16. (Currently Amended) A process for fabricating the [[an]]optical fiber tape core of claim 1 by coating plural optical fiber cores all together, which comprises

the following steps: mounting said optical fiber cores in alignment with each other on a two-dimensional flat surface; applying silicone rubber onto said two-dimensional flat surface such that said two-dimensional surface with said plural optical fiber cores mounted therein is coated with said silicone rubber to form a coating layer; and peeling off said plural optical fiber cores from said two-dimensional flat surface to separate, from said coating layer on said two-dimensional flat surface, only a part thereof located on said optical fiber cores.

17. (Withdrawn) The process according to claim 16, wherein only some of said coated, plural optical fiber cores are peeled off from said two-dimensional flat surface.

18. (Withdrawn-Currently Amended) The process according to any one of claims ~~4, 9,~~ 12 and 16, wherein a coating layer formed of silicone rubber having a hardness of from 20 to 90 and a tensile strength of from 15 to 80 kgf/cm2 is formed.

19. (Withdrawn-Currently Amended) The process according to any one of claims ~~4, 9,~~ 12 and 16, wherein said two-dimensional flat surface is provided with an adhesive layer for temporarily holding said optical fibers in place on said two-dimensional flat surface.

20. (Withdrawn-Currently Amended) The process according to any one of claims ~~4, 9,~~ 12 and 16, wherein said two-dimensional flat surface is provided with a groove for aligning said optical fiber cores on said two-dimensional flat surface.